

A Speech taken out of the Life of King William, spoken by Mr. F. K
One of the Members of the House of Commons, about the Abdi-
cation of King James.



Mr. Speaker,

THE present Times require our most earnest and serious Thoughts; and truly, Sir, I cannot but say, We are extremely oblig'd to the Valour of the Prince of Orange, who with Hazard and Expence has brought us a great Deliverance from the Fears of an Arbitrary Power; nor can we give him too great a Recompence, unless we should give him more than our own, I mean the Crown, for we have been a long while taught, That 'tis not the Gift and Work of Subjects to dispose of it. Sovereign Princes have indeed made bold one with another: But I am of Opinion (whatever Malice may suggest against his Highness) he hath too great a Soul to be guilty of such an Attempt; he came not either for Greatness, or to gratify Ambition, he had Greatness enough of his own, and a large Command, and has brought it with him; and values more being *Optimus* than *Maximus*, which is the best way of joyning those two Imperial Stiles; I say, I am confident it is more than he will think proper to receive; that he will think it more his Glory to reduce this Monarchy to its just and lawful Establishment, than to be a King to secure us from Popery, rather than lead us into the Errors of it, of which the greatest and most pestilent, are the deposing of Kings, and breaking of Faith with those of another Communion.

He is too great a Disciple of Religion towards God, and of Piety towards the King, than not to be satisfied with our doing what is agreeable to our Duty towards God and the King; let us not press him out of his own Sentiments, which have been the most Heroick, and the greatest, that have appear'd in this latter Age of the World, lest while we have taken Arms to redress our Grievances, we are drawing Misery on our Selves and Posterity; for, Sir, when we believe the Catholick Princes have such a Zeal for their Religion, so unreasonable, fierce and unsafe to our Opinion, we cannot at the same time Flatter our Selves, that they will tamely suffer a Catholick King to be thrust out of his Kingdom, for little less than being a Catholick: I am afraid these Proceedings may precipitate us into Extremities; and if those Kings stand firm to our King, all sober, sensible, and considering Men know what ill Consequence a Revolt of those Crowns may be to these Realms; we shall, instead of being

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in a Condition to Invade *France*, find difficulty enough to preserve our own Countries; and for what I see, we are not sure to be at Peace amongst our Selves, for the Tide is mightily abated since he went from *Rocheſter*, to crave his Bread in a ſtrange Land: Thoſe who wiſh his Humiliation in the Government, will by no means wiſh his Perdition and Excluſion from the Crown; neither do they believe the Faults to be ſingly his; or if they were, not to be ſufficient to juſtify ſo extraordinary an Example for to Depoſe him.

Kings muſt See and Hear by the Eyes and Ears of other People; which makes it their Miſfortunes, more than their Crimes, that they do amiſs: We are alſo of a Church that hath been ſingular for her Loyalty and Deference to Kings; and if we have any Honour for her, we ought to tread tenderly in that Point; and that we ſhould be Juſt, we have two Reaſons that compels us for our ſake; *Fiſt*, That moſt of the Things which made the King's Government Odious and Obnoxious, have already been done in this: We have had a Diſpenſing Power executed at *Exeter*, as well as at *Weſtmiſter*: We have had Free-quarter conſigned at all Places, thro' which the *Dutch* Army have marched: We have a great part of a Popiſh Army too from *Holland*, tho' it was one of the crying Offences we chiefly objected to the King, and from thence we drew moſt of our popular Notions of Inſecurity. This Town would not brook an Army under a Lawful and Native King, and under the preſent Circumſtances, we cannot reaſonably believe the Caſe better now, for the Money that was Raiſing, as part of the Royal Revenue, is demanded by two Armies, and both to be kept on Foot, and Men may conclude it is ill reſuſing their Propoſal ſo Seconded.

How far our late famous Petition of Right, and the late Act of Parliament are concerned, I leave to conſider, for that is all the Caution I ſhall—at this Time. The *Second* requires our Moderation, Temper and Candor; and it is the little or no Truth that at laſt appears in thoſe Mens Calumnies and Stories, that above all ſeem'd to alienate the Hearts of his Maſteſty's Subjects; and were rais'd and propagated to diſſolve that Tye of Affection and Duty they had to the King, as their Sovereign: I mean ſuch as we had here of the *French* Invaſion, and the King Selling us for Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds: The *Inſkilling*-Men (*Irish*) Women and Children on the Roads; the *French* that were imbarcked with Forty Thouſand Slaughter-Knives, but were met with by the *Dutch* Fleet, and were all Snak; the Queen's Back-door for bringing into her Bed a little Child; her ſtriking the Princeſs *Anne* of *Denmark*, the Lord *Craven*, and others, with a great many more of the ſame Stamp, which pro-
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ved as False as they were Malicious; how far they have contributed and influenced the present great and dangerous Change, is not only worthy of our Thoughts, and Examination, but of our just Censure, and speedy Regulation. These are the Things that have driven our King out of *England*, which if they can be proved, that either the Prince of *Wales* is an Imposture, or that there was a League to cut off the Protestants, that which has befallen the King, is not too hard for him.

For truly, Sir, 'Tis upon no other Terms, that the generality of the People of *England* would part with their King they have Crown'd, and to whom they have Sworn Allegiance; nor will they with Patience hear of all the rude Usages he has had, meerly upon these Suppositions, but suggested by some as were in Arms, that are under Apprehensions lest their Lives and Estates should be at the King's Mercy, should we recall him: As to that I think the King will be far from expecting it, and I am Confident the Nation will be far from yielding to it; but rather they must not only be pardon'd, but preferred to all Places of Honour and Trust, who were so Noble and Generous, as to appear for, and defend our *English* Liberties: I hope the King will see it to be his Interest to leave little and particular Favourites, and be willing that such be employ'd in all his Affairs, as the People can confide in; and also will use that Preferment for the Honour of his Majesty, and Good and Safety of his Subjects. As to the Objection against the King's return, on the account of deserting his Kingdoms, I am astonished at it, since he did not voluntarily Desert us, as *Queen Christina* of *Sweden* did her Kingdoms; but it was because he was attacked by an Invasion from Abroad, and deserted by the Officers and Commanders at Home; and therefore in good Morality, as well as Law, it cannot be Forfeiture either of Crown or Authority.

Mr. Speaker, If I have not tired your Patience, I have at least been over-long to some Members of a contrary Judgment, who sit in this Convention: Consider well the Power, it is, I conceive, too scanty to be able to make a new King, tho' they may call Home the Old One, to whom most, if not all of us, Swore Allegiance; the People whom we Represent, have given us no Commission to Depose him their King; let us not then betray our Trust they have reposed in and committed to us: If our own Case be so Desperate, that no other Remedy can be apply'd, but creating a New King, that is calling more Heads than our own to our Assistance, our Convention hath not Members enough for the rest of the Nation to be concluded.

ded by : It is true indeed, when Matters are transacted according to the known Laws and Customs of the Nation, the usual Deputies of the People may deliver and state the Intentions of those whom they represent ; but when so many new Changes, and great Alterations must be made in the Building that is to be fitted for the common Conveniency, every Man thinks himself as much concerned as the skilful Artificer, when he is to dwell in the same House.

Parliaments that are called by Kings, cannot make Kings, much less can a Convention, not called by a King, and on as slight a Bottom as a Parliament, if not less ; because at once the Sanction of a Parliament is the King's Writ ; it seems to me a Solecism in Law, that a Meeting less in Authority than a Parliament, should presume to make a King. What shall we and all the Nation think of this Convention ? Can we act Lawfully by an Unlawful Call ? Or can an Unlawful Convention Constitute a Lawful King ? No : For we are taught by an English Proverb, *That no Stream runs higher than its Fountain Head.* How is it then possible for us to give any Man Authority to Govern this Kingdom, that have no Authority our Selves, but what we receive from Him, who by our Eminent and Established Laws hath no Authority to give.

Sir, This is neither more nor less than for the Prince of Orange to make Himself King by a *Medium* of His own, as much His own to do, as 'tis above us to think of. Nevertheless my Opinion is, and I Humbly move, That we pray the Prince of Orange, who has been Our Deliverer, be also Our Arbitrator betwixt Him and His Subjects, that we may have due Limits set to the King's Prerogative, and to Our Liberties and Priviledges, to secure Us that are Protestants in Our Religion and Properties, and to shew the King what sort of Liberty he ought to expect for his Roman Catholick Subjects ; I say, Let Us joyn in Our Address to the Prince of Orange, to call back the King His Father in Honour and Safety, for the Accomplishment of those Great Ends, which is the only way to make the King and Kingdom Happy and Flourishing, and shall make the Great Prince of Orange Renowned in all the Histories of Europe, as well as Our own Chronicles.

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